

# New research and development facility in rural Kings County will create jobs

by Stella Shepard

BIO SCIENCE

During the production of a number of foods such as wine, spirits, soy sauce, and bread, the yeast added to these foods creates a chemical called ethyl carbamate. In 2007, the World Health Organization made the public aware of an increased health risk of this chemical.

**Phytterra Yeast Inc.**, based in Charlottetown, is developing a type of yeast that produces less of this chemical. “We have run successful commercial trials that prove that our product reduces the amount of ethyl carbamate without changing the taste of the wine,” says **Garth Greenham**, President of Phytterra Yeast Inc.

Phytterra already sells two yeast strains in the US to consumers who make wine at home. These products were developed in Charlottetown at the **National Research Council Institute for Nutrisciences and Health (NRC-INH)**. Now the company is getting ready to move to a bigger facility that will test, develop, and produce larger amounts of yeast for commercial sales. To do that, the company is renovating a 15,000 square foot building in Grahams Pond near Montague.

“The facility at Grahams Pond is an important step,” says Garth. “It will allow us to manage product development from research to production to marketing.”

## Employment

The Phytterra Yeast lab at the NRC-INH employs 12 people. “Some of the staff will relocate to Grahams Pond,” says Garth. “As the company continues to develop, more staff will be hired. Jobs will be posted in local newspapers and through [www.peijoblink.ca](http://www.peijoblink.ca).

“Islanders will have the first opportunity for the positions. Some positions will be suited for graduates from the **Bioscience Technology** program at Holland College. Specific qualifications will depend on the job positions.”

## Positions will include:

- site managers
- production staff
- engineers
- biologists

## The Grahams Pond facility will include:

- **A pilot plant** laboratory for production, development and quality control of small batches of yeast. The pilot plant will have about 10 individual lab units. It is scheduled to open early this summer.
- **A spray dryer** unit will process the yeast. It will also offer drying services for animal feed and pharmaceutical products.
- **A wet lab** will develop and test fish vaccines before they are sold commercially. Staff will include a wet lab manager and two technicians with a science background and experience in the area of fish husbandry. The wet lab will open early this spring.
- **A state of the art water treatment plant.** This CFIA approved facility will ensure that all water leaving the plant is treated prior to release. A back-up treatment system will also be in place.



Garth Greenham is the president of Phytterra Yeast Inc. The company is constructing a product development and research laboratory at Grahams Pond. New bioscience jobs will be available at the facility in the coming year.

## PEI BioAlliance

Phytterra Yeast Inc. and Functional Technologies are members of PEI's growing Bioscience Cluster, which currently consists of close to 30 companies employing more than 800 people within business, research, government and academic institutions. Revenues currently exceed \$83 million annually.

For more information about the PEI Bioscience Cluster, visit [www.peibioalliance.com](http://www.peibioalliance.com)



For more information, visit [www.phytterra.com](http://www.phytterra.com) or [www.firstventuretechnologies.com](http://www.firstventuretechnologies.com) or contact **Garth Greenham** at 647-204-4095.